

## EMERGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE ADVANCE POLICY

### 1. Statement of Policy

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs may provide financial advance payments to assist with immediate expenses resulting from the 2021 flooding in the Northwest Territories.

### 2. Principles

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will adhere to the following principles when implementing this policy:

- (1) The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs should offer immediate assistance to community governments, small businesses and residents affected by a disaster situation; and
- (2) Community Governments, small businesses and residents should take appropriate and reasonable measures to prevent and minimize damage as a result of a disaster.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to community governments, small businesses, and NWT residents.

### 4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Community Government – is a corporation established under or continues by the *Charter Communities Act*, the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the *Hamlets Act*, the *Tlicho Community Governments Act*, or any Designated Community Government listed in Schedule A.

Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP) – is the Government of the Northwest Territories Policy which may provide financial assistance to community governments, small businesses, or residents of the Northwest Territories who have suffered damage as a result of a disaster.

Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) – is the financial assistance that may be provided by the Government of Canada to provincial and territorial governments in the event a large-scale natural disaster.

NWT Flood Pathfinders – Individuals appointed by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs assigned to support flood impacted communities.

Preliminary Assessment – A preliminary cost estimate of flood related damages approved as an eligible claim by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Small Business – is an enterprise with yearly gross revenues as reported for income tax purposes of at least \$10,000 but not more than \$2 million and employing not more than 20 full-time employees.

Accountable Advance – A disbursement of funds that are provided to the recipient with the expectation that the funds will be expended by the recipient for the approved purposes only in accordance with a written agreement.

## 5. Authority and Accountability

### (1) General

#### (a) Minister

This policy is issued under the authority of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

#### (b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs is accountable to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the administration of this policy.

### (2) Specific

#### (a) Minister

The Minister may:

- (i) approve changes to this policy;
- (ii) approve payments or contributions according to the terms and conditions outlined in this policy; and
- (iii) delegate authority to approve payments or contributions to the Deputy Minister.

#### (b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister has the following authority and accountability which they may delegate to directors or regional superintendents:

- (i) establish further procedures and/or guidelines on the application of this policy; and
- (ii) approve payments or contributions according to the terms and conditions outlined in this policy.

## 6. Provisions

If a resident, community government or small business has experienced home, business or property damage due to the 2021 flooding in the NWT, they may apply for an immediate

advance payment to replace essential personal property, take immediate action to mitigate damage to personal property or ensure the safety of their property.

(1) Funding Limits

Maximum funding available are as follows:

- Residential Property – 50% of the Preliminary Assessment up to a maximum of \$10,000;
- Small business owners - 50% of the Preliminary Assessment up to a maximum of \$10,000;
- Community Governments – 50% of the Preliminary Assessment up to a maximum of \$100,000.

(2) Time Limits

Funding is available for the period of June 10, 2021 to July 31, 2021. Funding must be spent on eligible expenses by October 31, 2021.

(3) Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses include:

- Emergency provision of essential community services;
- Security measures including the removal of valuable assets and hazardous materials from a threatened area;
- Repairs to public buildings and related equipment;
- Repairs to public infrastructure such as roads and bridges;
- Removal of damaged structures constituting a threat to public safety;
- Restoration, replacement or repairs to an individual's dwelling;
- Restoration, replacement or repairs to essential personal furnishings, appliances and clothing;
- Restoration of small businesses including buildings and equipment; and
- Costs of damage inspection, appraisal and clean up.

(4) Payments from Disaster Assistance Policy

Reimbursements paid to recipients under the Disaster Assistance Policy for eligible expenses will be reduced by any payments under this policy.

(5) Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include:

- Expenses reimbursed through insurance;
- Costs already reimbursed by another government program; and
- Normal operating expenses of a community government or business.

(6) Applications

- (a) Applications for advances can be made to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, or Government Service Officer.
- (b) Applicants must confirm their intention to submit an application for assistance under the Disaster Assistance Policy.
- (c) Property owners and individuals applying on behalf of a small business must produce a valid piece of NWT identification that demonstrates residency in a flood impact community.

(7) Reporting and Repayment

- (a) Residents, small businesses and community governments must provide a summary of expenses along with receipts or other proof of payment by December 31, 2021.
- (b) Any funding received under this policy will be deducted from the applicant's claim under the Disaster Assistance Policy.

**7. Financial Resources**

Financial resources required under this Policy are conditional on an approval of funds by the Legislative Assembly and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriate activity for the fiscal year for which the funds will be required.

**8. Prerogative of the Minister**

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Minister to make decisions or take actions respecting contributions. In this regard, the Minister may make an exception to this policy. Any exception will require substantiation in writing and must be recorded with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.



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Shane Thompson  
Minister

June 9, 2021

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Date

## **SCHEDULE A**

### **Designated Community Governments**

- Behdzi Ahda First Nation (Colville Lake)
- Délıne Got'ıne Government
- TthedzehK'edeli First Nation (Jean Marie River)
- Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation (Kakisa)
- Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation
- Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Smbaa K'e First Nation (Trout Lake)
- Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (Wrigley)
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)